

Weekly Newspaper, 700 men on the spot, and gives considerable employment to shipping.—The Duke of Sutherland is said to be making a princely addition to Dunrobin Castle at Inverness, where he has ninety masons busily at work in the preparation of the castle for the anticipated reception of her Majesty, for whose occupation state apartments are being expressly built. Besides the occasional use of Caen stone, the buildings are of a beautiful white sandstone from the duke's own quarries at Brora.—The average daily number of persons employed on public works in Ireland for the week ending 10th July, was 36,952; total expense 12,446*l*. In the week preceding, the number was 40,703; expense 19,127*l*. The stoppage of the public works is eliciting 'indignant outbursts' from various quarters.

AWARDS OF OFFICIAL REFEREES.

WOOD DRESSINGS TO EXTERNAL OPENINGS.

With regard to four houses in James-street, Bethnal-green, Alfred Single, in altering them, had constructed the door-dressings to each house of woodwork. This was objected to by the district surveyor, and not being altered, was communicated to the official referees.

The referees determined, "that the door-dressings in question are projections from a face wall not forming a part thereof, and that not being made of fire-proof materials are contrary in this respect to the Metropolitan Buildings Act, as alleged in the said information; and, moreover, inasmuch as it does not appear to us that there is any sufficient reason, economical or otherwise, for the use of wood as outside linings or as dressings to doorways, we do hereby direct the said Alfred Single forthwith to remove the woodwork in question, that is to say, the outside linings and dressings to the doorways of the houses in question, being Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8, James-street, Bethnal-green."

The awards of the referees, during the past month, relate chiefly to the projection of buildings before the "general line of fronts," wherein each case stands on its own merits, and has little public interest.

BLIND BUILDERS.

The following tenders were received at the Office of Sewers for the Tower Hamlets, on the 29th ult., for 1,150 feet of second size sewer, in New-road, St. George's-in-the-East.

Peersm	£1,150
Blackburn	1,000
Shalders	947
Munday	920
J. Hill	900
Wilson	799
Stewart	798
Cartis	792
Crook	792
Batterbury	773
Livermore	767
W. Hill	766
Yeoman (accepted)	695

Tenders for repairs, &c., at a house in Hatton garden, under Mr. C. Broadbridge.

Langmead	£351 0
Kemp	338 0
D. Bodger	329 10
T. Bodger, Hatton-garden	230 0

The last accepted.

Tenders opened at Lambeth Workhouse on 26th ult., for repairs to be done at the Norwood School of Industry.

Walker and Soper	£334 10
Pritchard and Son	329 19
Wells	319 10
Buck	299 0
Crawford	290 0
Thompson	243 0

CITY IMPROVEMENTS.—The Remembrancer having announced that the City Improvement bill in the line to St. Paul's had passed through Parliament, it was proposed and agreed to that the work should not be proceeded with until it be determined from what source the funds required for carrying the improvements into effect were to be raised. The subject was referred to the improvement committee.

PROPOSED MUSEUM OF SCULPTURE.

M. JULES SOHN, to whose invention for the multiplication of works of art we have already referred, has published a proposal, from which we take the following:—

"The situation of the sculptor is scarcely better than that of his art. The isolation of which we have spoken is fatal to him in the last degree. Immured in his solitary studio, none interest themselves in his welfare; when he awakes from his dream of study, and attempts to carry his designs into execution, he becomes the prey of the hungry dealer, who cares not for the dignity of art. Even in the present day, when publicity seems so easy of attainment, how many fine statues and *bass-reliefs* remain unnoticed in the dust of the studio! For the few who have acquired fame and fortune, how many men of genius are exposed to the numerous difficulties which beset the path of those who possess no other resources than their own talents; how many are compelled to renounce a career that filled their youth with pleasing and hopeful aspirations; how often does the strength of genius bow in the struggle; how much oftener is it forced to undertake works frienlous and unworthy, instead of those which would confer honour upon their creator! Governments, generally speaking, are incompetent to remedy the evil, however they may have the desire so to do; the power they possess being necessarily limited."

"A general museum of sculpture, similar to that in Paris, will be established in London—the centre of the industrial world; which contains within itself so many resources of art, and is, consequently, a suitable place for such an establishment. Into this museum, which will remain a permanent exhibition of all the *chef-d'œuvre* of sculptures, we would gather such subjects as should form a complete and continuous history of the art. Here, reproduced by the best artists and by the most efficient means, will be found, by the side of the sublime creations of Greece and Rome, the sacred sculptures of the middle ages, the elegant and refined works of the *Renaissance*, and the finest statues of modern times; the collection will, therefore, be a treasury for all the plastic wealth of Europe. It is proposed to execute reduced copies of every work consecrated by the admiration of ages, and to place under contribution—in order to make the museum universal—every public and private gallery, the cathedrals, palaces, and royal gardens; in short, every place where the art of Phidias and Michael Angelo appears in all its grandeur and its glory. This gathering of works of diversified character will allow of a classification of the different schools, and of the various epochs; it will give a new impulse to historical study, and, at the same time, will furnish the student with ready means for completing his education, by enabling him to refine his taste and his style by a constant reference to the masterpieces of art, without the danger of weakening or entirely losing his own originality. Art has no country that can entirely claim her as its own; we shall, therefore, receive with pleasure our brethren from foreign lands. France and England are too little acquainted with the genius of their neighbours; the names of Thorwaldsen, of Raub, Rietschel, Schwanthaler, Banks, Bacon, and Flaxman, are celebrated; but their works are almost or utterly unknown among foreigners; and their reputation has not yet received that meed of applause which consecrates their glory, and which each country is willing to bestow."

"But it is no part of our design to limit the contents of our museum to statuary works alone. Paris, it is well known, has for a long time enjoyed the privilege of furnishing Europe with architectural decorations; still her best artists are fully aware that what has hitherto been done in this branch has arisen from a mere mercantile spirit, and the moulding of these ornaments has therefore become a business exercised without knowledge and without taste; no doubt some modellers have produced correct and elegant designs, but, as yet, no manufacturer is to be found whose works are entirely satisfactory; neither is there any collection so extensive as to afford the architect a varied and judicious choice. We are desirous of extending to England the benefits that France now enjoys. By collecting from the earliest and best sources, from antiquaries and the monuments of the sixteenth

century, we hope to restore to ecclesiastical ornamentation the important position it formerly occupied; by an intelligent reproduction of the finest examples of antiquity, and a careful selection of modern works, we shall doubtless render our gallery worthy the attention of every architect. Besides the objects already referred to, it is intended to add a rich and varied collection of models adapted to the industrial arts; thereby constituting ourselves a medium of communication between the artist and the manufacturer, the gold and silversmith, the wood-carver, and all who practise a business in which the fine arts are concerned, so that the artist may have a fair opportunity of exhibiting his productions without the labour and loss of time he is at present subject to."

WESTMINSTER COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

At a court held on the 27th ultimo, Capt. Bague in the chair, several important questions in connection with the new Act were discussed. Mr. John White proposed a series of resolutions to enable the commissioners to carry out the Act, but it was considered better to do nothing hastily, and ultimately Mr. White confined himself to a motion for the preparation of a complete map of the jurisdiction of the court, which he thought could be done for about 2,000*l*. On this an amendment was moved to the effect that the surveyor should first report on the means of obtaining this map and the probable expense, which was carried by ten to nine. Mr. Gunter and others urged that the plan was essentially necessary.

It was resolved *nem. con.* that the bye-laws should be revised with reference to the new powers of the commission. Further,—That in all cases where new sewers may be required to be made, or open sewers to be arched over, until the regulations and bye-laws be revised, and until further order, the mode of proceeding with the works, giving the necessary notices, and of paying for the same and recovering the costs thereof, be decided upon in each case by this court with the advice of their solicitors."

Mr. John White then moved, and Mr. Chalmers seconded, a resolution,—"That in order to prevent inconvenience to the public, the clerk and the surveyor be conjointly empowered, to grant permission to proceed with the necessary works to such persons as shall present applications in the usual form for sewers and drains, and who will bind themselves to abide by the printed regulations of the court with regard thereto; a list of the applications so granted being presented at the next meeting of the court,"—when there appeared ayes, thirteen; nays, none.

It was then resolved *nem. con.* upon the motion of Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Le Breton, "That owners of sewers built within thirty-five years who shall make application under the new act for parties to be compelled to lay drains into such sewers, be required to present a plan of the entire length of the sewer, or sewers, so built by them, shewing the several houses and premises fronting thereon, with the sums already paid for each house, from which a drain has been laid, and shew showing the lengths of frontage, and the amount demanded for laying a drain from each of those houses from which they desire that a drain should be now laid into the sewers so built by them." The present commission, it may not be generally known, expires in December next.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.—At a council held on the 26th inst., the following gentlemen were admitted probationers in the Royal Academy of Arts, London. Edward Thomas Coleman, Robert Charles Leslie, Thomas Daggell, Charles Wright, John H. Smith, Wynne William Watkins, Arthur Hughes, John Brown, George Knowles, David Nathan Fisher, Richard Hollingdale, John Cleghorn, Walter Goodhall, Charles Fowler, Edward Lance Tarbuck, Charles Augustus Gould, Benjamin James Benwell, Joseph Thomas, George Bidlake, Bright Smith, William Purdue, John Pollard Peppercorn, Joseph Gawn. GEORGE JONES, R.A., Keeper. August 6, 1847.